

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method for sterilizing a device, includes the following steps: contacting
the device with liquid sterilant outside or inside a sterilization chamber at a first
pressure, placing the device in the chamber before or after the contacting step, and
decreasing the pressure of the chamber to a second pressure below the vapor
pressure of the liquid sterilant. At least the decrease in pressure below about the
vapor pressure of the liquid sterilant occurs at a pumpdown rate of less than 0.8 liters
per second, calculated based on the time required to evacuate the chamber from
10 atmospheric pressure to 20 torr when the chamber is empty and dry.

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